

What is Claimed is:

1. An apparatus for generating a workflow for making image recording media recorded with images expressed by page data from the page data described in page description language, comprising:
 - a designator for designating attributes of the image recording media constituting finally resulting matter resulting due to processing based on the workflow to be created; and
 - a workflow creator for creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on attributes designated by the designator.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a ticket creator for creating a job ticket indicating content of processes required to make the image recording media based on the workflow created by the workflow creator.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the workflow creator comprises:
 - a rule storage unit for storing rules, corresponding to each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media, in advance;
 - an environmental information storage unit for storing in advance environmental information indicating an environment for executing each process capable of being selected for making the image recording media; and
 - a process content decider for deciding upon processes required to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on

attributes designated by the designator by referring to the rules and the environmental information.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

5 a display having a prescribed screen;

 a pointing device operated by a user for designating positions of the screen;

and

 a display controller for displaying a plurality of icons indicating the respective attributes selectable for the image recording media constituting the

10 finally resulting matter at the display,

 wherein the designator registers an attribute indicated by a selected icon as an output requirement when one of the plurality of icons is selected due to an operation of the pointing device;

 the workflow creator creates a workflow based on attributes registered as
15 output requirements; and

 when the workflow creator creates a workflow, the display controller displays the created workflow at the display.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein:

20 the display controller displays a first area displaying a plurality of icons indicating the respective selectable attributes, a second area displaying icons indicating attributes registered as output requirements, and a third area displaying the created workflow in a distinguishable manner at the screen; and

 when one of the icons displayed at the first area is dragged and dropped
25 to the second area by the pointing device, the designator registers the attribute

indicated by the dragged and dropped icon as an output requirement.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:

when one of the icons registered as an output requirement displayed in the
5 second area is double-clicked using the pointing device, the display controller
separately displays an operation screen for setting detailed content for the
attribute indicated by the double-clicked icon at the display, and

the designator registers detailed content set based on user operations of
the separately displayed operation screen as output requirements.

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7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein when one of the plurality of icons indicating
the respective selectable attributes is double-clicked by the pointing device, the
designator registers the attribute indicated by the double-clicked icon as output
requirements.

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8. A printing and prepressing manufacturing system comprising the apparatus of claim
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and further comprising an executor for executing processing on the page data based
on the workflow created by the workflow creator so as to make the image recording
20 media with attributes designated by the designator.

9. A printing and prepressing manufacturing system comprising the apparatus of claim
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and further comprising:

25 a ticket storage unit for storing tickets generated by the ticket creator,

and

an executor for issuing tickets saved at the ticket storage unit when new page data is obtained and executing processing of the content indicated by the issued ticket on the new page data so that the image recording media having attributes
5 designated by the designator is made.

10. A method for generating a workflow for making image recording media recorded with images expressed by page data from the page data described in page description language, comprising the steps of:

10 designating attributes of the image recording media constituting finally resulting matter resulting due to processing based on the workflow to be created; and

creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on
15 designated attributes.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising a step of creating a job ticket indicating content of processes required to make the image recording media based on the workflow created in the workflow creating step.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the workflow creating step comprises the steps of:

reading rules, corresponding to each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media;

25 reading environmental information indicating an environment for executing

each process capable of being selected for making the image recording media; and
deciding upon processes required to make the image recording media and
parameter values for the required processes based on the designated attributes by
referring to the rules and the environmental information.

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13. A program for generating a workflow for making image recording media recorded
with images expressed by page data from the page data described in page description
language, the program, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to perform
the steps of:

10 designating attributes of the image recording media constituting finally
resulting matter resulting due to processing based on the workflow to be created;
and

 creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make
the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on
15 designated attributes.

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14. The program of claim 13, further comprising a step of creating a job ticket
indicating content of processes required to make the image recording media based on
the workflow created in the workflow creating step.

15. The program of claim 14, wherein the workflow creating step comprises the steps
of:

 reading rules, corresponding to each attribute selectable for the image
recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media;

25 reading environmental information indicating an environment for executing

each process capable of being selected for making the image recording media; and
deciding upon processes required to make the image recording media and
parameter values for the required processes based on the designated attributes by
referring to the rules and the environmental information.

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